

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This is the follow-up promised in the June 15 letter to you from Presidential Assistant Max Friedersdorf in regard to your suggestion that the President consider sending a high-level mission to the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan.

The Administration shares your concern for the humanitarian crisis created by the brutal Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. We have assigned very high priority to assuring that the basic needs of the Afghan refugees are met without imposing an unacceptable burden on Pakistan. We are closely coordinating our efforts with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which has overall responsibility for managing the international relief program.

In 1980 the United States government provided \$43.7 million through international agencies for Afghan refugee relief, almost half the total of international contributions. In the current fiscal year, in spite of growing budgetary stringencies, our proposed official contribution will come to at least \$93 million. This will include \$45.2 million in PL 480 Title II food, \$39.8 million for the UNHCR and other international relief organizations, and an \$8 million contribution directly to the Government of Pakistan to help defray the costs of inland transportation of relief supplies. At the same time, we have been active in urging other members of the international donor community to increase substantially their aid to this vital program.

State Department representatives and other U.S. officials concerned with refugee affairs have made periodic visits to Pakistan to improve by personal observation our understanding of conditions, requirements, and problems. One such recent visit was enhanced by the participation of Representatives Joel Pritchard and Don Ritter. Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology James Buckley, who headed a delegation to Pakistan for talks on bilateral relations earlier this month, made it a point to set aside time for inspection of the refugee situation, including a visit to a refugee camp.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Munter:

This is the first time in our history that we have been able to provide a direct contribution to the relief of the refugees in the current fiscal year. In the current fiscal year, we have contributed, our proposed contribution to at least \$93 million. This is in PL 480 Title II food, 1968-69, other international relief supplies, contribution directly to the United Nations to defray the costs of inland transport. At the same time, we have been able to have members of the international community substantially their aid to this vital cause.

State Department representatives concerned with refugee affairs have been in Pakistan to improve by personal observation of conditions, requirements, and needs. This visit was enhanced by the participation of Joel Pritchard and Don Ritter, Under Secretary Assistant, Science and Technology, who headed a delegation to Pakistan for relations earlier this month, made it possible for inspection of the refugee situation and to a refugee camp.

The Honorable
 Duncan L. Munter,
 House of Representatives.

Drafted by: [illegible]

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In regard to the need to maintain a high level of international concern about this issue, we have been consulting with the Government of Pakistan concerning the feasibility of an international conference on the Afghan refugee problem sometime this winter. Such a conference would be humanitarian in purpose, but would have the added benefit of focusing world attention on the responsibility of the Soviet Union for this continuing tragedy.

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